

**Minutes of
Provincial Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting
Gender Justice through Musalihat Anjuman Project - NWFP
December 04th, 2006**

Meeting of the Provincial Steering Committee of Gender Justice through Musalihat Anjuman Project (GJTMAP) NWFP was held at Peshawar on December 04th, 2006 at 1100 hours under the Chairmanship of Mr. Hammad Awais Agha, Secretary LG&RD Department, Government of NWFP. List of the participants is attached as annexure 1.

The meeting commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran. The Secretary LG&RDD welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of the Project. He expressed that the donors have also recognized that centuries old institutions of Jargas are a viable mean towards dispute resolution. He said that success of the project will on one hand provide relief to the vulnerable sections of the society particularly the women and on the other hand will lessen the burden of caseload on police and courts. He also highlighted that the project will also ease the tensions prevailing due to petty disputes and will lead to the existence of a more tolerant and peaceful society. He asked the concerned DCO's and Nazim's to extend all possible support for the implementation of the Project and also earmark funds for the Musalihat Jargas.

A gist of discussion held during the meeting is given below:

Review of Progress during the 2006:

The Provincial Project Manager GJTMAP made a detailed presentation on the Project progress during 2006. He also made a detailed presentation on the project goal, objectives and implementations mechanism for the information of some of the members of the PSC from the new districts. The PPM explained the LGO Provision regarding the constitution of the Musalihat Jargas. He further informed the meeting that Musalihat Jargas have been constituted and are functioning well in both the pilot districts of the Project. The Chairman expressed his satisfaction on the formation of the Musalihat Jargas in the pilot districts.

Explaining the project progress the PPM informed that during the year 2006 the project has successfully completed all its activities, institution of the Musalihat Jargas has been achieved in both the pilot districts of the project with one female member in each MJ, orientations for the project stakeholders i.e. police, district administration, elected representative have been conducted, Rules of Business for the functioning of Musalihat Jargas has been notified by the Provincial government, and copies of the RoBs have been distributed amongst the member of Musalihat Jargas, UC secretaries, Judiciary and Police, etc. Workshops on the RoBs were also organized.

The PPM informed that a MoU was signed with the Musalihat Anjuman Support Services (MASS) forum partners, and under this MOU a comprehensive training plan for the project stakeholders was prepared. Two consolidated manual on Legal Literacy and Gender Sensitization were thus developed by the Provincial PMU NWFP with the technical and financial support of the Federal PMU. A national level TOT was organised by the Provincial PMU NWFP which was participated by MASS partners from all other Provincial PMUs of the Project. A batch of 6 master trainers from each Province participated. These Master Trainers then trained another batch of trainers in their respective Provinces who imparted the field

level trainings. In NWFP, 14 trainers were trained by the Provincial PMU with the support of MASS partners. So far in both the pilot districts a total of 2021 Project stakeholders have been trained in the areas of Gender Sensitization and Legal Literacy.

He further informed that a briefing to the Inspector General of Police was held in April 2006 in order to seek the support of the police department for the Project. The briefing was also attended by the respective DIGs of both the pilot districts, DIG Operations NWFP, representative from the UNDP Country Office and Federal PMU of the Project.

Similarly in order to ensure the support of the Judiciary to the Musalihat Jargas a briefing was given to the Honorable Justice Shahjehan Khan, Focal Person on SCP ADR Committee, Peshawar High Court with support from FPMU.

Various awareness raising activities through the forum of Musalihat Anjuman justice Advocates (MAJA) were held including community orientations, radio talk shows, newspapers advertisements, promotion through cables, posters and handbills disseminations, etc.

He explained that in order to support the offices of musalihat jargas, furniture comprising of one table, five chairs and one steel cupboard are being supplied to each union council. Similarly stationary and reporting registers for reporting have been supplied to all the union councils. Display boards have also been provided so that they are fixed outside the MJ offices and the people could easily access the offices of Musalihat Jargas in the respective union councils.

Decision:

The committee endorsed the progress achieved during the year 2006 and asked the PMU to further consolidate the work already carried out.

Briefing on Up-Scaling of the Project (2007-2011) and Selection of three Additional Districts:

Project Document for the up – scaled phase of the Project for next five years from 2007 to 2011 was shared with the members. The NPM informed the committee about the main features of the up scaled phase. He explained the support provided in the Up-scaled Project document for the office of the District Focal Persons (DFPs) and UC Secretaries. On inquiry from the Chairman, the NPM informed that no new positions are being created but a staff from the existing district government offices preferably ACO or HRDO will be nominated as a district focal person in order to coordinate and regularly report to Project/PSC apart from supporting the day to day project activities in the district.

The meeting was informed that due to some ground results, the Project has been up-scaled and three additional districts in each Province are to be selected for the implementation of the Project. The PPM informed that the Provincial government has selected the districts of Mardan, Swat and Kohat for the up-scaled phase. He informed that certain commitments from the newly districts are required to be made by the districts governments. Each point was discussed and the nazims of all the new districts reiterated their support and also promised that although the financial position of the districts is not very sound yet they will make all efforts to provide financial resources to the offices of musalihat jargas.

Decision:

The PSC endorsed/approved the selection of three additional districts – Mardan, Swat and Kohat along with the two existing districts of the project – Abbottabad and DIKhan for the implementation of project activities in the up – scaled phase of the project.

Approval of Budget and Workplan for the year 2007

The meeting was informed that a budget of US \$ 2, 61,455 has been allocated for implementation of the project in its five districts in year 2007. The work plan and details of the budget were also shared with the participants. The Chairman stressed that further details of the budget should be provided. The PPM said that the details are annexed to the working paper and were shared with the participants well in time. He further informed that based on this workplan quarterly workplan are prepared and submitted to UNDP for release of funds.

Decision:

The PSC approved the budget, priority work plan matrix of the project for year 2007. Annexed at 2.

Notification/Actions required for Up-Scaled Phase of the project:

It was informed that according to the Project document, the districts Governments of the Project districts have to perform certain functions to support the project activities and Musalihat Anjumans constituted in union councils under NWFP Local Government Ordinance 2001. It was further informed that re-notifications of Provincial Steering Committee (PSC) and Musalihat Anjuman Support services (MASS) are required to add representatives from three new selected districts. It was further informed that notifications of the district level forums of Musalihat Anjuman Justice Advocates (MAJA) in new districts and ACOs or HRDO as the case may as District Focal Persons (DFPs) to coordinate the project activities and accounts at districts are also required. The issue was debated and it was decided that although the responsibility will rest with the DCO but the ACO or HRDO on behalf of the DCO will act as the district focal persons. The PMU will ask in writing from the districts with regard to the nominations for MAJA and district focal persons.

Decision:

- The PSC allowed the issuance of notifications and re-notifications according to the project requirements and asked the PMU to seek nominations from the districts for MAJA and district focal persons.
- Secretary LG or PPD will write to the District Governments to allocate resources for MJs functioning.

Any other item with the permission of the chair:

Mr. Khan Afsar Jadoon member musalihat jarga Mirpur Abbottabad proposed that identity cards may be issued to the members of the Musalihat Jargas. Responding to this Mr. Hasan Yousafzai, DCO Swat pointed out that the concept of the project is based on the premise of social work and informal approach. Therefore, these aspects are not of that prime importance in the achievement of the goal. Secondly the jarga has to be very proactive and in case if parties are reluctant to approach them the jarga members should take the lead

and initiate reconciliation before the issue lead to a major dispute. The Chairman, reiterating the point emphasized on the spirit of social work. He said however, the issue of the ID cards will be discussed later on with the project management.

The issue of support by the secretaries' union council was highlighted and was discussed in detail. The PPM pointed out that the new project documents envisages a financial support of Rs. 1000 per month to the secretaries union councils for reporting and documentation and this incentives will help in improving the reporting. The DIG operations proposed, if the secretaries' union council are over burdened and can not make reporting of the MJs than any capable member of the MJs or union council may do the reporting and in such a case the amount should be paid to that person. The committee supported the proposal and decided on the same lines.

Mr. Mumtaz Shadikhel raised a concern that at D.I.Khan the main issue is the space for the office of the musalihat jarga. Responding to this Mr. Hamid Raza Afridi said that if enough space is not available in the UC premises for solving disputes, rules are flexible and Musalihat Jarga can meet at a government school or some other place acceptable and duly accessible to the parties.

Mr. Mukhtiar Javed from SUNGI Abbottabad suggested that District Batagram could be a potential district for carrying out the Project activities because of the recent development and initiation of female developmental activities in the district. Responding to this Secretary/Chairman PSC said the Project will look into the feasibility of the proposal and asked SUNGI to come up with a detailed report on the proposal.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by the Chairman.